ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT

1939.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

P.G. HANCOX, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 26th. Feb., 1939).

A.A. EDWARDS (Appointed 1st.March, 1939).

County Council Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone - Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

E.E. JORDAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

E.G. WATKINS.

Council Offices,
Southend,
Ledbury.

Telephone - Ledbury 130.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Ledbury Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the Health Services of your District. The Report has been greatly abbreviated in accordance with Circulars 1961 and 2067 of the Ministry of Health and is to be regarded as an interim report only. I regret that it has not been possible to publish the report earlier owing to pressure of work.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support which the Council has always given me in the discharge of my duties. I also desire to acknowledge the assistance given me throughout the year by Mr. H.W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer, and Mr. E.E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Sept. 1941. Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.- STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

Area (in acres)	49,867
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1939 ...	(a) 8,140
	(b) 9,751
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	2,332
Rateable Value	£32,777
Sum represented by a penny rate	£155. 11s.

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births.	For M.I. etc. Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate	107	54	53	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population = 13.9
Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Still Births.	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) = 34.2
Deaths.	103	47	56	Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude) 10.6

Adjusted death rate(Comparability Factor 0.79) ... ... = 8.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Births.
No. 29.-- Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30.-- Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	17.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
" " Measles(all ages)	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

SECTION B.-- GENERAL PROVOSION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Public Health Officers:

A list of the Public Health Officers is given on page 1.

Laboratory Facilities:

These remain unchanged, and the following statement shows the amount of work carried out by the County and City Public Health Laboratory, Hereford:-

Swabs for Diphtheria	90
" for other organisms	27
Sputa for tubercle bacilli	21
Faeces for organisms	4
Blood for agglutination reactions	4
Milk for tuberculosis (microscopical examination) ...	6
Milk for other pathogenic organisms	14
Water Chemical examination	40
Bacteriological	43
	249

SECTION C.- SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water. The supervision which the Department maintains over water supplies was continued throughout the year. Some 40 samples of water were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination, and 18 of these were found to be unsuited for potable purposes. There was no important change made in connection with the water supplies of the area during the year.

School Closures:

School.

Stretton Grandison & Eggl
" " "
" " "

Drainage:

The sewers and sewage disposal works in the Parish of Colwall were maintained in good order throughout the year. There were 5 new connections made to the sewers. In addition, 71 new drains were laid and 31 existing drains were reconstructed.

Closet Accommodation:

There were 24 new water closets provided, 5 of these being connected to the sewers in the Parish of Colwall. The Department also secured the conversion of 13 privies to pail closets and a further 8 privies were replaced by water closets. In addition 7 pail closets were converted to water closets.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E.E. Jordan, continued to discharge his duties throughout the year with efficiency and tact assisted by Mr. E.G. Watkins.

I am indebted to the Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections:-

Building Byelaws	212
Bakehouses	5
Dairies and Cowsheds	107
Factories with Mechanical Power	19
Factories without " "	6
Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	104
Other Housing Inspections	218
Hop-pickers Quarters	73
Infectious Disease	46
Nuisances	44
Schools	4
Slaughter Houses	28
Water Supplies	68
Miscellaneous	132
	1,066

Notices Issued:-

Informal	84
Statutory re Housing	0
" under other Acts.	2
	86

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

New Wells Sunk	7
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	10
Houses supplied from Waterworks	5
House Drains laid or relaid	71
Drains Cleansed, Trapped and Ventilated	32
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	17
Defective W.C.s, Sinks and Urinals Rectified ...	26
Drains and Sanitary Fitting Repaired	17
New W.C.s provided	24
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	22
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed	22
Privies converted to Pail Closets	13
Privies converted to Water Closets	8
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	7
	281

SECTION D.- HOUSING:

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	117
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	130
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	46
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	62
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21

2. Remedy fo Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers	21

3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year:-

(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
		(a) By owners	nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
		(a) By owners	nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
(d)		Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act. 1936:-	
	(1)	Number of seperate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were Made	nil

(2) Number of seperate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... nil.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding:

(a)	(i)	Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	17
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	17
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	106
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	7
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil

There were eleven dwellings reconstructed with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, and 44 new dwellings were erected by the Council. The number of new dwellings erected in the District by other means was 10.

SECTION E.- INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Supervision of food supplies was maintained during the year. Six samples of milk were examined microscopically for the presence of the tubercle bacillus by the County and City Laboratory, Hereford. The organism was not found in any of the samples.

In addition, seven samples of milk were examined for the presence of the coli-typhoid bacilli and all examinations failed to demonstrate any of these organisms in the samples submitted. One samples of milk submitted for examination for the presence of haemolytic streptococci was found to yield a growth of this organism on culture. Further samples were taken on the farm and by elimination the haemolytic streptococci were found to occur only in the milk from one particular cow. This animal appeared to be perfectly normal to the untrained observer but it was examined by Mr. W.F. McConnell, Vetinary Surgeon, Ledbury, who diagnosed infection of one teat. A swab taken by Mr. McConnell from the infected teat failed to yield a growth of the particular organism, but after the animal had received treatment for one week all further samples of milk (three taken at intervals) failed to yield the presence of the haemolytic streptococcus.

This particular streptococcus was grouped by the University of Birmingham and found to correspond to Lancefield's Group B. It is generally thought that this group may at times give rise to disease in man.

These findings were extremely interesting and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the valuable assistance afforded me by Mr. W.F. McConnell.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)		Not	Known		
Number Inspected	28	-	14	56	49
All Disease Except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	1	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	12.25
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION F.- PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:

The health of the inhabitants of the District was good throughout the year. The total number of notifications received was 21, there were 11 notifications of scarlet fever and 8 of diphtheria.

Notifiable diseases during the Year 1939.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	11	6
Diphtheria	8	7
Pneumonia	1	1
Erysipelas	1	-

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases according to age.

DISEASE..	Age Groups.												Totals
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	-	1	-	-	11
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	1	1	-	-	8
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	1	6	7	2	2	2	-	1	21

Prevention of Diphtheria:

Slight progress was made under the scheme for the prevention of diphtheria, 24 children being immunised under the Council's scheme. These were all from the Parish of Colwall.

Tuberculosis:

On the 1st. January 1939, there was a total of 20 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register; of these, 14 were pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary.

During the year, 10 notifications were received, 8 being for pulmonary and 2 for non-pulmonary disease, 8 cases (6 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) were removed from the Register on account of recovery, death or change of residence, leaving a total of 22 cases (16 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary) on the Register on the 31st. December, 1939.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15- ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25- ...	1	1		2	1	-	-	-
35- ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45- ...	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
55- ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	4	4	-	2	1	1	-	-